

NEWTOWN AND LLANILLWCHATAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health and of
the Public Health Inspector for the year

1958.



Medical Officer of Health

Amelia Evans. B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Town Hall, Newtown. Tel. Newtown 246.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

W.G. Davies, M.P.H.I.A., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Town Hall, Newtown. Te. Newtown 246.

NEWTOWN AND LLENLINWCHYD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. J. D. Smith.
Members - Councillors Mrs. D. M. Dallas,
Mrs. E. W. Evans,
V. Davies,
W. G. Ivor Jones,
J. E. Neale,
R. J. Brymer Griffith.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health - Amelia Evans.
Chief Public Health Inspector - Mr. W. G. Davies.
Additional Public Health Inspector - Mr. W. A. Young.
Rodent Operator - Mr. Harry Matthews.
Administrative Clerk - Mr. Ken Hamer.



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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Urban District Council.

I wish to submit the Annual Report for the year 1958 on the health and sanitary conditions in your district. It is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health's circular No.22/58 (Fales).

Staff. There were no staff changes in the year under review.

Vital Statistics.

The birth rate for 1958 was 16.42 per 1,000 population compared with 15.27 in 1957.

The rate for the urban areas in the County was 16.61 and for the whole of Montgomeryshire 16.05.

There were no still births. In 1957 3.7% of the total births were still births. In the urban areas the still birth rate for 1958 was 1.0% and in Montgomeryshire it was 2.1%.

There was one illegitimate birth being 1.1% of total births, compared with 1.2% in 1957. The rate in the urban area was 3.4% and in the whole county 3.8%.

Infant Mortality. There were two deaths of infants under one year giving an infant mortality rate of 23 per 1,000 live births. This compares with 12 per 1,000 in 1957.

The rate for the Urban Districts was 24 and in the whole county 25.

Both these deaths occurred in boy babies, one being at three hours and the cause was prematurity. The other was at three days the cause being cerebral haemorrhage following a birth trauma.

Deaths.

There were 58 deaths giving a death rate of 10.82 per 1,000 population compared with 10.61 in 1957. The rate for the urban districts in the County was 12.22 and for the whole of the county 12.59.

One of these deaths was due to a motor vehicle accident and one was due to manslaughter.

Cancer of various organs takes its usual toll, death being attributed to cancer in 9 cases. Of these two were cancer of the lung in men aged 52 and 58 years.

National Assistance Act 1947 section 47. Action was taken under this section early in the year. It concerned a young man of low mentality who was living in most insanitary conditions with his mother. His mother was removed to hospital suffering from malnutrition and starvation and since there was no-one who would look after the boy and it was obvious that he would not be able to care for himself, an order was obtained for his removal to Y Dolydd, Llanfyllin.

Infectious Diseases.

There was no outbreak of any seriousness in the town in 1958. 31 cases of measles were notified.

Several cases of dysentery occurring in children were discovered in the town following the notification of such cases in the rural area. These children attended the same school in the town. This school was visited by the Public Health Inspector and advice given regarding the cleanliness of the closets and kitchens. Although it took quite a few weeks before the original few cases had completely cleared up, the outbreak fortunately was very limited.

Water Supplies.

1958 was a predominantly wet year and no shortage of water was experienced in the town. In fact the water supply situation has greatly improved due mostly to constant waste detection and to relaying and scraping of the mains.

Register of rainfall kept at Mochdre Reservoir during the last ten years (measurements given in inches).

Month.	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958.
Jan.	9.40	3.12	1.06	4.11	5.17	1.51	2.52	3.10	4.17	2.08	4.47
Feb.	2.47	1.67	8.01	5.74	1.47	1.56	4.10	2.57	1.25	4.72	5.52
March	1.33	1.42	1.77	5.20	1.86	3.15	2.66	3.92	2.11	2.94	1.31
April	2.99	3.50	3.64	3.35	2.43	3.76	1.13	1.20	2.56	0.15	0.82
May	3.11	3.85	1.29	3.37	1.81	1.74	1.92	5.19	0.75	2.03	2.88
June	4.20	1.30	1.38	0.64	2.43	1.20	4.57	3.85	1.96	2.12	3.63
July	1.04	1.89	3.19	2.00	1.41	0.31	2.57	0.86	3.42	4.28	5.42
Aug.	3.42	1.60	6.47	3.44	4.40	3.02	4.43	1.23	4.88	6.98	2.31
Sept.	3.47	1.72	5.82	1.27	3.56	4.27	3.61	1.64	4.31	6.03	7.51
Oct.	2.67	5.81	2.58	1.72	5.18	2.15	4.11	2.71	2.47	3.10	3.37
Nov.	2.07	5.37	4.92	9.05	3.62	2.85	9.13	2.93	2.02	3.99	11.88
Dec.	5.70	5.73	2.71	5.04	4.53	1.40	4.80	3.88	3.69	3.20	3.60
Total	41.87	36.98	42.83	44.93	38.46	26.92	46.75	33.08	33.59	41.62	42.74

Sewers. Disposal continued at the sewerage farm and conditions were very much the same as in previous years.

Housing. During 1958 rehousing took place from confirmed clearance areas, i.e. Old Church Street, Crown Street, Turners Lane, Frankwell Street and Glanavon Terrace. Not all the tenants in these areas were rehoused in the 24 houses which were originally intended for them, since the Council adopted the policy of housing certain key workers. Whilst I realise the need for the consideration of key workers, in order to keep full employment in the town, I would like to point out the human problem which exists. During my inspections I informed the tenants of these properties that once clearance orders were confirmed they would be automatically rehoused by the Council. The housing of key workers therefore delayed the re-housing of these tenants for a considerable period causing much frustration.

Twenty four houses at Crescent Street, were completed and work was begun on a further twenty four.

The Council have still continued in its search for further housing sites.

Slaughterhouses.

The public slaughterhouse continued to be used and also two privately owned ones. The condition of the public slaughterhouse as kept by the two butchers using it gave cause for concern throughout the year, the matter being reported to the Council on several occasions. All the meat was regularly inspected at the three slaughterhouses.

Refuse Tip.

There was a heavy fly infestation at Garth Owen and inevitably the refuse tip was blamed. It is no doubt very unsatisfactory for a refuse tip to be sited so near a housing estate nevertheless strenuous fly control measures were taken throughout the year with the result that no actual fly breeding took place on the tip.

As in previous years I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to my fellow colleagues in the Public Health department of this Authority for their constant help. Mr. Nock and his assistant Mr. Davies have always been most helpful in all matters concerning my work.

The Public Health Committee is a very active one and very concerned about the health and welfare of the citizens of this town.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) Amelia Evans
Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
NEWTOWN.
July 1959.

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.
Population (mid year estimate)
Rateable value.
Penny Product.

1958.	1957.
7,224	7,224
5,360	5,370
£62,217	£55,922
£242. 1. 11.	£212.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	48	39	87	53	28	81
Illegitimate.	-	1	1	-	1	1
Total.	48	40	88	53	29	82
Number of Home Confinements.			17			

Birth Rate per 1,000 population

	1958.	1957.
(a) For Newtown U.D.	16.42	15.27
(b) Urban Districts in County.	16.61	15.07
(c) Montgomeryshire.	16.05	15.22
(d) England and Wales.	16.4	16.1

STILL BIRTHS.Still Birth Rate % total Births.

	1958.	1957.
(a) Newtown U.D.	-	3.7
(b) Urban Districts in County.	1.0	4.1
(c) Montgomeryshire.	2.1	3.8
(d) England & Wales.	2.16	2.24

INFANT MORTALITY.Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births.

	1958.	1957.
(a) Newtown U.D.	23	12
(b) Urban Districts in County.	24	30
(c) Montgomeryshire.	25	22
(d) England and Wales.	22.5	23

DEATHS. (All Causes).

All ages.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
	28	30	58	25	32	57

Death Rate per 1,000 population.

	1958.	1957.
(a) Newtown U.D.	10.82	10.16
(b) Urban Districts in County.	12.22	11.14
(c) Montgomeryshire.	12.59	11.84
(d) England and Wales.	11.7	11.5

AGE AT DEATH.

Age in years.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1.	2	-	2	1	-	1
1 - 5.	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	1	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	1	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	1	1	-	1
35 -	-	1	1	1	-	1
45 -	3	1	4	-	-	-
55 -	6	4	10	4	2	6
65 -	6	10	16	7	7	14
75 -	6	9	15	6	17	23
85 and over.	2	5	7	5	6	11
Total.	28	30	58.	25	32	57

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Respiratory tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other forms of tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH. (cont.)	1958			1957		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Malignant neoplasm:-						
stomach.	-	3	3	-	2	2
lung, bronchus.	2	-	2	2	1	3
breast.	-	2	2	-	-	-
uterus.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	-	2	2	1	2	3
Leukaemia.	-	-	-	1	-	1
Diabetes.	-	1	1	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	5	9	2	7	9
Coronary disease, angina.	3	-	3	4	1	5
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	1	3	1	5	6
Other heart disease.	4	14	18	7	10	17
Other circulatory disease.	2	1	3	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-	2	-	2
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchitis.	2	-	2	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach, duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis.	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth abortion.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5	1	6	-	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1	-	-	-
All other accidents.	-	-	-	1	-	1
Suicide.	1	-	1	-	-	-
Homicide.	1	-	1	-	-	-
	28	30	58	25	32	57

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are notifiable are:-

Scarlet fever, whooping cough, acute poliomyelitis, measles diphtheria, meningococcal infections, acute pneumonia, small pox, acute encephalitis, enteric fever, paratyphoid, fever, erysipelas, food poisoning.

During the year the following notifications were received:-

Scarlet fever, 1, a boy aged 8 years.

Whooping cough, 1, a girl, aged 4 years.

Measles, 31 cases.

Age	Male.	Female.
Under 1	-	-
1 -	-	-
2 -	1	2
3 -	1	3
4 -	4	2
5 - 9	8	8
10-14	2	-
15-24	-	-
25 and over	-	-
	16	15

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 4 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, all were pulmonary tuberculosis.

(1) A male of 24 years.

(2) A female of 20 years.

(3) A female of 61 years.

(4) A male of 72 years.

Three cases were removed from the register.

Two were due to recovery:-

(1) A boy who was aged 8 in 1950 when notified with non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

(2) A girl aged 9 in 1949 when notified also with non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS (cont).

The third was a man who came to this district in 1956 and left the area during 1958.

At the end of the year there were 39 cases on the register.

The Mass Radiography unit makes regular visits to the hospital for the chest examination of the public.

Vaccination against tuberculosis.

In the summer term vaccination against tuberculosis was offered children age 13 years attending the High School and the County Technical School.

First of all parental consent to this vaccination is obtained.

These children are then mantoux tested, i.e. given a small intra-dermal injection of tuberculin in the forearm. This result is taken after two days. Those children who give positive results have had some time had an infection with tuberculosis maybe so slight that it did not show as a diagnosed case of tuberculosis. These children are regarded as already having an immunity to the disease and there is no need to vaccinate them. These children are however followed up by the Health Visitor and they and their family contacts are invited to attend the Mass Radiography Unit.

The children who show no reaction to the initial Mantoux Test are then vaccinated with B.C.G. On this occasion Glaxo freeze dried B.C.G. was used. Six weeks after vaccination these children are again Mantoux tested to see if they are building up a resistance to tuberculosis. Those who still give a negative reaction are followed up the following year.

	<u>High School.</u>		<u>County Technical.</u>
	<u>Boys.</u>	<u>Girls.</u>	
Mantoux tested.	41	44	25
Mantoux positive.	3(1 absent)	2(1 absent)	2
Mantoux negative.	37	41	23
B.C.G. vaccinated.	37	41	23
Post B.C.G. Mantoux tested.	35(2 absent)	37(4 absent)	21(2 absent)
Post B.C.G. Positive.	28(2 absent)	30	14(3 absent)
Post B.C.G. negative.	5	7	4

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE URBAN AREA. AMBULANCE.

The local service is the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Newtown 205.
After 5 p.m. Newtown 359.

Sitting Car Service:- all requests to the County Health Offices, Newtown.
Tel. No. Newtown 205.

CHILDRENS' OFFICER.

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Childrens' Act 1948:

The Officer is:-

Mr. W.E. Jones.
County Offices,
Welshpool. Tel. Welshpool 3311.

The Childrens' reception home is at:-

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool. Tel. Welshpool 3109.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

The district is served by:-

Sister C. Lloyd Jones.
Bryneglwys,
Newtown. Tel. Newtown 497.

HEALTH VISITOR.

The Health Visitor for the Urban District is:-

Miss N.L. Jones.
County Health Offices,
NEWTOWN.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

Particulars of this service can be obtained from the home help supervisor:-

Mrs. Rhoda Goodwin.
County Health Offices,
Newtown. Tel. Newtown 205.

CARE OF THE AGED.

This service is provided by the Welfare Committee of the County Council and the local home established for the care of the aged is at Plas Cae Crwn, Newtown.

Many aged people do not wish however to live in a community composed entirely of elderly people, they want their own homes with their own furniture. They are however often to be found living in houses which are very much sub-standard and with low rent. The Council will no doubt make some provision for the elderly in this district by building dwellings suitable for these people, near to the shops and with no hilly approach. So far nothing specifically for the elderly has been built in this town.

It is in caring for the aged in their own homes that the home help service is of inestimable value.

HOSPITALS.

The Montgomery County Infirmary is controlled by the Mid Wales Management Committee at Aberystwyth. Medical, surgical and midwifery cases are admitted.

LABORATORY SERVICE.

Branches of the Public Health Laboratory Service are at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury and at the Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth.

In connection with this service I should like to express my gratitude to Dr. Sudds, who is in charge of the laboratory at Aberystwyth. She is a most co-operative colleague.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The County Council is responsible for this service and clinics are held every Wednesday afternoon at the Park Street Clinic.

DENTAL CLINIC.

The County Council is responsible for this service, and dental clinics are held at Park Street for the treatment of school children. The County was very unfortunate in so far that during 1958 it had to rely on the services of only one whole time dental officer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is controlled by the regional hospital board and Dr. G.O. Thomas, the chest physician, holds clinics at the local hospital on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11 a.m.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued to visit the town throughout the year approximately once a month.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL POX.

This procedure is carried out in this district by the general practitioners, and every parent is encouraged to have their babies vaccinated.

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at approximately the 6th and 7th month followed by a booster dose at 5 years.

Whooping cough injections are given at 3, 4 and 6 months. There do not appear to be so many cases of whooping cough notified as previously and when it does occur in previously immunised children the attack seems to be of less severity.

The value of a high rate of immunisation against diphtheria throughout the country is shown in the following table (for Wales).

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Notifications.</u>
1948	7	190
1949	1	102
1950	-	62
1951	1	53
1952	3	39
1953	-	17
1954	-	7
1955	-	1
1956	-	2
1957	-	1

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

This was continued throughout 1958 and many more children were able to receive this vaccination due to increased supplies from British manufacturing chemists and also by the importation of large amounts of vaccine from America and Canada.

Towards the latter part of the year the age limit was raised to 25 but during 1958 the response from young adults was very small. Also expectant mothers of any age were offered vaccination.

A third injection was also introduced due to the increased availability of supplies and the course of vaccination now consists of 2 doses at three weekly intervals followed by a 3rd after seven months.



Mr Chairman, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

I wish once again to submit my contribution to the Annual Report for 1958.

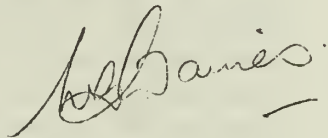
Slum Clearance continued during the year, but to deal adequately with the proposals submitted in 1955 by the Council many more areas will have to be cleared.

Water supply is now in excellent shape the only problem being that of adequate storage to meet exceptional dry weather.

The sewers of the town pose problems particularly in regard to storm water overflows and trade effluents, and in view of the requirements of the River Pollution Prevention Act these problems need urgent attention.

Once again I wish to record my thanks to the Health Committee for their constant support, and also to my fellow colleagues for their constant cooperation and help.

Yours obediently,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. B. Davies'.

SURVEYOR, CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & WATER
MANAGER.

INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year numbered 4,691 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given below:-

SUMMARY.

(1) Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	 68
(2) Number of houses inspected for other than Housing defects.	219
(3) Premises other than houses inspected(including visits to Industrial Premises)	...3203
(4) Premises re-inspected(including houses)	138
(5) Works in progress(including houses)	218
(6) Miscellaneous visits	845
	4691

1. Slaughter House	551
2. Visits to premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale.	143
3. Premises & Vehicles where Ice Cream is prepared or sold	6
4. Visits to bakehouses	8
5. Visits to fish shops	9
6. Visits to food stalls	305
7. Dairies, Milk Shops & Vehicles	75
8. Cafes & Restaurants	17
9. Visits to Butcher's Shops	48
10. Shops Acts Inspections	-
11. Factories with mechanical power	67
12. Factories without mechanical power	7
13. Visits to schools	3
14. Visits to tents, vans & sheds	5
15. Visits to Council House applicants	17
16. Drains tested	45
17. Smoke observations made	8
18. Urinals & Public Conveniences	41
19. Visits under Petroleum Acts	23
20. Visits re collection or disposal of refuse	46
21. Rodent Control	8
22. Building Bye Law (Inspections)	187
23. Council House Inspections(Including hutments)	457
24. Water Supply	578
25. District Roads	131
26. Milk Samples	8

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Representation was made in respect of 21 houses contained in the following two Clearance Areas and 8 houses owned by the Council:-

	<u>Number of Houses</u>
Union Street (No. 2 and 5.) Clearance Area	19
Pool Road (No. 59.) Clearance Area	<u>2</u>
	<u>21</u>

Houses owned by the Council

Smithfield Cottages	4
Stone Street	<u>4</u>
	<u>8</u>

The following houses in Clearance Areas were demolished during the year:-

Union Court (No.3.) Clearance Area	3
Old Church Street (No 10.) Clearance Area	5
Crown Street (No. 12) Clearance Area	<u>13</u>
	<u>21</u>

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health Acts)	68
Repairs: Informal action -	
Number of houses unfit but rendered fit during period as a result of informal action	48
Action made under Statutory Powers -	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice -	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses erected since 1945:	
By Local Authority	258
By Private Enterprise	92

Number of houses erected during 1958	
By Local Authority	24
By Private Enterprise	8

Temporary Accommodation

1 hut remained occupied at 31st December in Glandulas
Camp.

Efforts are continuing to close down this temporary hut.

MEAT INSPECTION

Routine meat inspection at the Council's Slaughter House at Stone Street and the private slaughter houses at Great Brimmon and Lower Brimmon was carried on throughout the year. The high quality of the animals slaughtered reflects in the low figure of condemnations.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number Killed	363	-	1825	484	2672
Number inspected	363	-	1825	484	2672
Diseases other than T.B.					
(Whole carcasses)	-	-	11	1	12
(Part carcasses)	16	-	78	9	103
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	4.4	-	4.8	2.1	4.3
Whole carcasses (T.B. only)	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcasses condemned (T.B. only)	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned food is disposed of at the Council's Refuse tip under supervision and all condemned meat covered with dye to render unsaleable.

WATER SUPPLY

All chemical and bacteriological samples taken during the year were reported satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

During the year 12 cwts., 31 llbs. of foodstuffs, including canned foods, were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	12
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	69
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	4
TOTAL	54	85

